

Minutes of the Annual Delegates Meeting of the International Leonberger Union on the 23^d September 2017.

Location: Leonberg. Amber Hotel.

Time: 23 September 2017, 10.10 am-3.30 pm.

Represented were the member clubs from: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA. (So 18 voting members were represented).

Apologies were received from the member club in: France, Canada and Czech Republic.

All members of the ILU board were present.

Chairman of the meeting was Willi Güllix, President of the ILU.

Notes for the minutes were taken by Hein Sibrijns, secretary of the ILU.

Agenda:

1. Welcoming introduction / check on presence of quorum / approval of the agenda / approval of the minutes 2016.
2. Reports:
 - a. of the president.
 - b. of the treasurer.
 - c. of the secretary.
 - d. of the auditors.
3. Discussion of the reports and discharge of the board.
4. Vote on proposed change of §4, §16 and §17 of the constitution (proposal committee/treasurer).
5. Budget 2017/18, Membership dues 2018.
Discussion/vote increase of the membership dues (proposal committee/treasurer).
6. News from the member countries (reports from the member countries).
7. Breeding problems in the Union / report of the Health Committee.
8. Genetic LEMP-test obligatory for breeding? (Discussion).
9. IULH World Cup (proposal Russia).
10. Discussion on the use of a uniform template for the reports from the member countries (proposal New Zealand).
11. Miscellaneous.
12. Closure.

01. Welcome:

The President opened the meeting at 10.10 am and welcomed the attendees, in particular the newly re-elected President of the Swedish club, Pamela Abrahamsson.

It was established that the General Meeting was convened in due time and in due form.

The Board was delighted that Mrs. Mayra Huber was again available as an interpreter "German-English" at the General Meeting.

At the request of Great Britain, the reason why Sharon Springel has left the health committee in the 2016 protocol has been changed. Sharon was very tired and also had no time to work on the committee due to problems in the family.

At the request of the Board, Hein Sibrijns will again take the minutes.

02. Reports:

a. Of the President

The detailed report of the President was read in German. The interpreter, Mayra Huber, translated into English. ([click for the report](#)).

b. Of the treasurer

Financial reports and budget were sent to the delegates by email on 12.09.

The Treasurer, Thomas Walker, explained the financial reports. Two financial reports had been prepared, one according to the current Articles of the constitution for the period 01.01.2016 - 31.12.2016 and one according to the proposed new Articles for the period 01.09.2016 - 31.08.2017.

All member clubs have paid their contributions.

[Click for the reports.](#)

c. Of the secretary

Hein Sibrijns thanked the members of the management board for the good cooperation.

The website was visited as always very well.

700 LEMP evaluations have already been received.

d. Of the auditors

Niels Steinmetz (NL) and Chris Aelbrecht (BE) have completed the audit of the past year's accounts, as well as the bookings for the current year 2017.

The audit revealed a correspondence between the receipts and the clean and properly managed bookkeeping, which Thomas Walker, the treasurer, was very warmly thanked for.

3. Discussion of the reports and discharge of the board

The delegate of Denmark asked whether the Union could be registered as an e.V.

Because no proposal had been made, this will be discussed under the agenda point Miscellaneous.

Michaela Wolf requested the discharge of the board. The board was unanimously discharged.

The Dutch club's president, Niels Steinmetz, handed over to the founders of the Dutch club, Metha Stramer and Hein Sibrijns, a medal of honor, received from the Dutch Kennel Club on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the club.

4. Vote on proposed change of §4, §16 and §17 of the constitution.

The draft, written by Thomas Walker, was sent to the delegates by email on 10.08. Thomas explained that the membership fees can now also be paid by Paypal.

The presented amendments were unanimously adopted without further discussion.

[Click for the revised constitution.](#)

5. Budget for 2017/18, membership fees for 2018

The draft budget and a proposal to increase the membership fees was sent to the delegates on 12.09. by e-mail.

[Click for the budget.](#)

The delegate from Ireland noted that by increasing the base amount from 50 to 75 euros the smaller clubs are more affected, he proposed instead to increase the contribution per club member from 0.20 to 0.30 cents.

Niels Steinmetz noted that one could save the cost of the joint Lunch. Daniela Lutz said that one should only have to pay the meal of the board. According to the opinion of Louise Baldwin you could offer sandwiches instead of a warm lunch. A joint lunch, however, is part of the friendly exchange between the member clubs. The board will discuss with the Amber Hotel, whether the price of the lunch buffet can be lowered.

Tarmo Room would like to know for what the money is spent. The delegates must answer to their members.

An amount for IT / Homepage was included in the budget. The homepage is not paid by the Union. Hein Sibrijns repeated his statement of the previous year; Domain and web hosting has been paid by him since the year 2000 and he will specify in his will that the domain is left to the Union.

Because last year's meeting had a problem with the fact that the Union's banking account was a sub account of the Austrian club, the treasurer has opened a bank account at Volksbank Leonberg.

(Account No. DE14603903000379182009, BIC GENODES1LEO in the name of the IULH).

With Volksbanken it is possible to have account of an association that hasn't legal capacity. The members of the

Board who have signed the contract personally accept the liability.

So the opening of the bank account, does not infer that the Union is a body with legal capacity that can own a database, or can be liable for it.

In addition to the costs for the meeting, we must provide financial resources for our regular judging seminar. The next judges seminar will be planned for November 2018. The cost for this is approximately 3,000 - 3,500 €
The credit balance of the account is about 7,000 euros.

In 6 or 7 years, a judges' meeting is to be held again. Furthermore, on the occasion of the jubilees of our member clubs, the prizes of the Union for BOB and the best veteran are to be made available. The Board is obliged to ensure a balanced financial budget. Revenue needs to cover expenses; a small surplus would be desirable.

The proposal to increase the contribution was changed to a basic amount of 60 euros, plus 0.30 per club member of the member clubs.

Daniela Lutz noted that there were rich and poor clubs.

The proposal was put to the vote: 9 voted for, 4 voted against, 5 abstained.

The proposed increase was therefore accepted.

6. Reports from the member countries.

All had submitted a written report. The reports were sent to the delegates by email on 16/09., 18/09. and 20/09.

[Click for the reports.](#)

There were no requests to speak.

7. Breeding problems in the Union / Report of the Health Committee.

The report of the Health Committee was sent by email to the delegates on 18/09.

[Click for the report.](#)

Per Andersen had first a question: What is the general health status of our breed?

Is it in general healthy, unhealthy or in between?

The general opinion is that the Leonberger breed is healthy, and certainly healthier than comparable races.

Health is an extremely important factor, but it is not the only one that needs to be considered in the breeding.

Daniela Lutz said that you must collect information, e.g. the percentage of natural matings, genetic diversity, etc.

Per Andersen said that one must in the first place use common sense in breeding.

When it comes to the question of whether our breed has serious health problems, the answer is no.

Wilma Kroon thought that Vetsuisse Bern could be contacted because it sent a health questionnaire a few months ago. It is certain that the Vetsuisse in Bern will not share the findings of the completed questionnaire replies with the Union.

The health committee has so far failed to contact the persons responsible for the breeding in the member clubs in order to inventorize which health problems are known in the countries. Natalia Romanova said that an inventory of health problems and their consequences for the breed is important. The union itself should draw up a questionnaire and send it to the member clubs. The task of the health committee is to inventorize. The results will then be discussed in the meeting. The Union can then make recommendations.

The Health Committee is not an independent institution of the Union. The committee was created at the request of the board, the committee members are not elected, but appointed by the board.

The task was clearly defined at the time; Health problems in the member countries are to be bundled and evaluated. For example; the frequency of stillbirths, strikingly many C-sections, bitches staying empty and much more.

It should be noted that in the last few years, the Committee has been concerned almost exclusively with LPN / LEMP, the video and contact with the universities.

The video, the loss of the genetic diversity because of the use of too few different studs was certainly good, but it can only be hoped that the breeders will adhere to these findings. It has been repeatedly made clear that the health committee should inventorize existing health problems in the member countries.

The clubs have the information, the committee can put them together, then it can be discussed the meeting. The committee will create a form to retrieve the informations, the board will review the form and complete it if necessary.

It has been said repeatedly that LPN and LEMP are not the only problems a dog can have, but that is not a reason not to test. Even if a club does not prescribe or cannot require testing, the breeder is generally liable in court with all costs incurred by sick offspring from untested parents. Therefore, it is already in the breeder's own interest to test their dogs. Based on animal welfare laws, the statutes of the members' clubs, breeding regulations as well as those of the FCI as well as ethical and moral principles, we stand together in the duty to prevent hereditary diseases and to breed only with healthy dogs. Willi Güllix once again referred to the loss of the genetic diversity: one should not use the same sire too often, it is clear that a champion is not automatically also a good sire. Excellent x Excellent, will not automatically give excellent offspring. If the potential of the available sires was fully used, that would be a real step in the right direction.

Restriction of the number of stud acts would also have a, if small, possible influence on the genetic diversity. The DCLH has such a limitation, the first step is not more than 7 litters per sire per year in the DCLH. In Holland the stud is limited to 6 litter for life and in Finland the stud is limited to about 50 puppies. The other clubs were encouraged to follow these examples, step by step, to introduce stud restrictions. On the Union's website, a page "Approved stud dogs" is available. On this page there are links to the stud lists of the member clubs, as far as the clubs have a list. These lists are to be regarded as a service for the breeders.

One came back again on LPN / LEMP and possible other genetic tests. Although some clubs do not want to have more tests, it is to be expected that further genetic tests will be developed in the future. There will be no LPN3 test for the time being. Inheritance is not clear, it is likely that several genes are involved.

If the parentage was genetically confirmed by DNA detection, testing the offspring from matings of two N / N parent animals is not necessary. For the development of genetic tests, blood samples can be send to Bern which are stored there free of charge.

Michaela Wolf said that Austria is building its own blood bank; when the blood is stored in Bern, one does not have control over its use. In Austria, the club has all in its own hand.

Michaela thanked the union for the prizes for the 40th birthday of the club. Austria was always strongly connected with the Union. Our Leonberger Union is unique, we have a harmonious union, which is different in other breeds. We like to keep that harmony.

Wilma Kroon said that Kristin Bloink had left the health committee, she would like to have suggestions for a replacement.

She also would like to have suggestions for the replacement of Jane Wall, who does not longer participate in the exchange of emails in the health committee. Clubs may propose persons to the health committee, the board will then make the choice.

8. LEMP genetic test obligatory for breeding?

The Board recommends the member clubs to make the LEMP genetic test a prerequisite for breeding in the interest of the breed.

The genetic test is already compulsory in Germany, as well as in the Netherlands and will be required in Austria from 15.12.2017.

It was confirmed that carriers (in combination with a free dog) can be used for breeding. Per Andersen was not happy about a public presentation in Bern on the diseases of the Leonbergs, where Leonberger dogs were present. A university, however, has the freedom to present its research.

The President is of the opinion; Members of every executive committee should be held back with statements in social media such as Facebook and so on, or better not participate at all.

9. IULH World Cup.

The Russian proposal is a good idea. It is good, not to talk only about problems, but also about something positive for the Union. In its last meeting, the board discussed the proposal, if the Assembly also supports the project, we will do it.

We think of the titles BOB, BOS, Best Junior, Best Veteran. The assembly was in favor of this. A committee consisting of Natalia Romanova, Tone Mosby, Ginny Bartholomay, Alessandro Rufini and Willi Güllix was created to elaborate the framework conditions. They will elaborate the regulations. There are already a few ideas. A country that wants to organize the World Cup as part of a WDS or a celebration can send an application to the board. The member country wishing to host the World Cup must adhere to the guidelines still to be drawn up, the host member club will bear the costs but will also cash the revenue. Natalia will make a draft that must be approved by the board, then the member clubs will be asked, who wants to organize the World Cup.

10. Discussion on the use of a uniform template for the reports from the member countries.

The disadvantage of a uniform scheme is that the individual reporting is lost.

However, when Rosemarie Lyon submitted the proposal she wanted only a common structure for the main statistical points attached to the report. She will draft a draft for the next meeting.

11. Miscellaneous.

The treasurer has opened an account on behalf of the ILU at Volksbank Leonberg. The contract states that the association is an "association without legal capacity". The opening of an account does not create legal capacity. The President asked whether the Union could be registered as an e.V.

It was made clear that a friend of his son-in-law, who is a lawyer, has dealt with our statutes. In order to be able to be accepted, the statutes have to be changed. Considerably. A great deal of freedom of action for the Union would be lost. The President states that it would no longer be possible, after the discussion of a proposal, to put it to the vote in a modified or supplemented form. It should be put as a new proposal on the agenda of the next meeting. For example, we could not have put the candidacy of Per to vote. Today's amendment of the proposal for an increase of the membership fees would also not have been possible.

Furthermore, an e.V. would have to pay taxes according to the profit and loss statement. For the annual tax declaration, a tax consultant would also have to be paid. The Union does not fulfill the conditions of an e.V., and surely not those for a tax-exempt non-profit association.

In 2003, it was also not possible to register the union at the court of Leonberg as e.V.

The reasons were largely the same.

Rob Lyon said that if the Union now has its own bank account, it could also own the database as desired by the Health Committee.

The possibility of having a bank account is not to be confused with ownership of for example database. If the Union owns a database, the Union is liable for its content and possible errors. The members of the Union are clubs, not private individuals. There are private databases, why does the Union need its own database that involves maintenance and costs.

To ensure that the data from Wilma's database is not lost during an accident, Hein Sibrijns receives regularly a copy.

Michaela Wolf also noted, that resolutions of an e.V. are not non-binding recommendations, but an obligation for all members.

Daniela Lutz said she had read an article, which claims that LPN causes the infested dog possibly pain.

She also reported that people wrote on Facebook that they would not be exhibiting their dog anymore, since there are now too many over groomed dogs in the ring.

We will talk about grooming in the coming judges seminar. An anatomically excellent dog remains an excellent dog, even if it is over groomed. From a duck you cannot make a swan. Although a Leonberger must not be over groomed, he should be presented neat and tidy.

Tarmo Room asked when the next judges seminar will take place.

It will probably be in November 2018, we will inform the clubs in time.

The ILU jubilee awards will be awarded next year on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Austrian club. The English club asked if the ILU jubilee awards could also be given to their 30th anniversary. However, at its last meeting, the board decided to award the prizes only for 25 and 40-year jubilees. However, since the decision was only taken yesterday, we made an exception for the English club. The clubs are asked to announce their 25 or 40 years anniversary in time to the board.

In the report of the Health Committee, Wilma Kroon had asked for a vote on whether we want to work with the calculation of mean kinship (MK).

The answer: the report was received only 5 days before the meeting.

There was also no request to put this as an item on the agenda, which is why it cannot be voted on.

It is not a good idea to practice dog breeding based on mathematics.

Willi said he knew the problems of the clubs that work with breeding value, which in his opinion has brought little to no improvement. Several breeders regret to have to breed according to breed value estimation. If you calculate the mean kinship value of all Leonbergers, published them in a database and recommend using the dog -with the lowest value to breed, is sure that the dog becomes the next Matador stud. It would not be a good idea to select that way.

Michaela Wolf informed that the Austrian club from 1.1.2018 will use dIa-haplotyping. [Click for more info.](#)

Wilma Kroon pointed out that dIa-haplotyping can be used together with MK-values. According to Wilma Kroon, the MK value calculation for the first calculation costs 1200 euros, for the next calculations 450 euros would be required. Once a litter has been born, the MK value of all animals in the group changes.

But according to Wilma Kroon, Pieter Oliehoek has said that one new calculation per year is sufficient.

Rob Lyon said that a recalculation every two year would be sufficient.

Natalia Romanova said she wonders if this is really a useful tool, you already have other tools in the same area. It is also doubtful whether Pieter Oliehoek is the right person, the video was disappointing, also not specific for Leonberger and he could market this video for every other breed.

The question is now why we funded this video. Furthermore, it is regrettable that the content of the video was not coordinated with the financiers. When the health committee was commissioned to produce a video, we thought the video would deal with the various issues related to general and specific health issues. Besides many responsible breeders, there are also breeders who run their breeding only after champion titles of potential breeding partners, they will not let themselves be guided by the content of the video, nor by figures of an MK value.

Rob Lyon suggested that the clubs could contribute to the costs an MK value calculation, as it was also done for the video.

The clubs should first discuss with their members in their own club whether they want to use the MK value as a tool and also to ascertain whether the MK value is reliable and useful for a larger population. A further discussion as well as a vote on the use of the MK value was postponed to the next meeting.

Wilma Kroon regretted that Anita Treichler and Sharon Springel had not officially thanked in last year's minutes last when leaving the health committee for the many work they have done.

12. Closure

The President thanked everyone present for their participation and contributions. It was discussed very democratically and constructively.

Leonberg, 23 September 2017

Willi Güllix,
President I.L.U. Chairman

Hein Sibrijns,
secretary ILU, taker of the minutes